

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 00032 031354Z

42

ACTION ARA-10

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P 031310Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5230

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0032

FOR AMBASSADOR STEDMAN, ARA/BC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, PGOV, AFSP

SUBJECT: GOB REQUEST FOR EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF USIS

FSL RAUL MARIACA

1. RAUL MARIACA, USIS CULTURAL SPECIALIST, FSL-2, HAS BEEN ASKED BY GOB AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE CAPRILES TO SERVE AS HIS DCM IN BOLIVIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON. MARIACA SERVED AS DCM IN WASHINGTON EMBASSY SOME YEARS AGO, AND NEW LAW RECENTLY PASSED ENABLES GOB TO CONSCRIPT ANYONE FOR SERVICE WITH GOB.

2. MARIACA HAS INDICATED TO CAO MASON THAT HE PREFERS REMAIN WITH USIS LA PAZ AND HAS TOLD CAPRILES THAT ACCEPTANCE WOULD IMPOSE GREAT PERSONAL HARDSHIP ON HIM AND HIS FAMILY SINCE USG REGULATIONS DO NOT PROVIDE FOR EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

3. ON DECEMBER 30 AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE CARPILES CALLED ON CHARGE TO REQUEST RELEASE OF MARIACA ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE. CAPRILES IS MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO UPGRADE HIS WASHINGTON MISSION AND INDICATED THAT MARIACA IS AT TOP OF HIS VERY SHORT LIST OF THOSE BEING CONSIDERED. CAPRILES INDICATED HE DID NOT WISH TO IMPOSE HARDSHIP ON MARIACA BUT HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT FINAL DECISION WOULD BE AS SUBJECT HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT BANZER. (AS CONDITION FOR REVERSING HIS EARLIER REFUSAL TO ACCEPT POST, CAPRILES RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM PRESIDENT TO SELECT BEST
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 00032 031354Z

AVAILABLE PEOPLE FOR WASHINGTON MISSION. MOREOVER,

AS AMBASSADOR IS AWARE, CAPRILES HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH PRESIDENT IN PREPARATION FOR HIS ASSIGNMENT.)

4. CHARGE INFORMED CAPRILES THAT MARIACA OCCUPIES PRINCIPAL LOCAL POSITION IN USIS AND BECAUSE OF HIS SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND VERSATILITY, HIS DEPARTURE WOULD CREATE A VACUUM THAT WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT USIS OPERATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY COULD NOT INTERPOSE ANY OBSTACLE TO MARIACA'S SELECTION, BUT OUR REGULATIONS DO NOT PERMIT LONG-TERM, INDEFINITE LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITH A GUARANTEE OF REEMPLOYMENT. IN ADDITION, MISSION WOULD HAVE TO REPLACE MARIACA AND APPLICANTS OF CALIBER REQUIRED WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT ON SUCH INDEFINITE TERMS. CAPRILES REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY STUDY THE MATTER AND EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR ACCEDING TO HIS REQUEST.

5. CHARGE PLANS INFORM CAPRILES AFTERNOON JANUARY 3 THAT EMBASSY HAS STUDIED HIS REQUEST, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GRANT MARIACA A LONG-TERM LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

6. SINCE EMBASSY MAY GET A FURTHER REQUEST FROM HIGHER GOB OFFICIALS AND SUBJECT MAY BE RAISED WITH YOU WHEN CAPRILES ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON, WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OR APPROACHES.
PARKER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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